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# County Life

Celebrating arts and culture in the Haliburton Highlands

June 11, 2026

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**Around the corner**
Haliburton's newest art show on page 4

**Around and around**
Circle back on page 6

**Critter corner**
Local wildlife on page 12

A bear in Algonquin Highlands, submitted by Tammy Nash

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# XU: *Snow*

HEY GUYS! I'm Xu, and proud of it. My grandparents, parents and I were all born in Canada, but I never wanted to change my Chinese name to something easier to say. I'll teach anyone how to pronounce it by comparing the *u*-sound to sort-of-like the *u* we practice in Grade 6 French. Miss Fields also wants us to master it. So one day, to help us train, she handed out super-sour gumballs to the kids who wanted to perfect that *u*. Between laughing our heads off, most of us tried! Bradley accidentally spat his gum onto the carpet, but he picked it up and popped it right back into his mouth. Isla had never tasted sour gum, and her eyes and nose started dripping, but she kept on wincing, chewing and making really good *u*'s! Half the fun was actually being allowed to chew gum for an hour inside school!

**DEB REED**
*Wind in the Attic*

I like Miss Fields. Hardly anybody acts up. They start feeling awkward if they do. She just waits until they finish whatever nonsense they need to interrupt with, and stares at them without reacting. So far, she's stared the longest at Kate, who finally stopped arguing and sat back down.

I never liked school more than this year. I even want to practice my cello since Miss Fields is beginning to talk about a school talent show. She asks us about new Canadian music, and sometimes writes lyrics on the white board to show how to rhyme AND make sense. Even though it's pretty old, my favourite song she plays is *Canadian Railroad Trilogy* by Gordon Lightfoot. I don't love the part about 'drinkin' bad whiskey', but we get to sing along in class, stand up at our desks, and silently act out the parts.

I also like Joni Mitchell's *River*, especially the part about skating. Miss Fields joins us when we sing it during art. She usually sketches too. The words make me think of winter, my very favourite season. I ski, snowshoe, build forts and 'quinzees'. Those are made by hollowing out domes of snow. My parents are on a curling team, and I go along to serve coffee and tiny white donuts. Anything snow or sugar-dusted instantly calls my name!

My latest new thing is a silver generic smartphone. I actually own one since I'll be moving away and attending Middle School next year. I have to keep it in my backpack during class, and I'm allowed to download only certain apps. I've already become crazy about four of them that I'm telling all my friends about. I can identify songs, plants, birds and constellations. Because I need data to use my apps away from wi-fi, I earn it by tracking my chores. One hour chores = 30 minutes data. That's completely fair because my refurbished phone cost $400.

After school yesterday, it twice picked up the faint call of a rare black-billed cuckoo. The class laughed when I announced this, and I did too!

*Author's note: Here's the latest in our alphabeti-cal series, Dickens-style, introducing a fictional Central Ontario classroom which recognizes student individual-ity, diversity, similarity, and wide-open growing on the verge of their futures. It's also our effort to help celebrate devoted teachers everywhere. We invite all ages, but especially kids, to enjoy reading these chapters out loud. ROOM 10 will soon be available in picture book format. A similar series will follow this one. Stay tuned!*

CountyLife

**The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:**

**Godfather's Pizza ***

**Home Hardware ***

**Minden Valumart ***

**Rexall ***

**Shoppers Drug Mart Haliburton ***

**Todd's Independent ***

***All inserts are to selected distribution areas.***

For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

# Otter in the Creek

**STEVE GALEA**
*Beyond 35*

LAST FRIDAY, my friend and I were fishing on a small creek for brook trout, when an otter showed up on the opposite shoreline.

Most people would have thought this was a cute, even fortunate event. Those people don't fish. Every angler knows, as far as fishing success goes, having an otter nearby is the kiss of death.

Otters, I will remind you, hunt and eat fish. And the minute one shows up, fish make themselves scarce. It's just like when I say, "We're sure to catch a fish here."

We knew that, so we quickly decided to paddle our canoe downstream and fish a bit more.

I know this sounds bad, but I should tell you that there is a plus side to having an otter in the stream. That being, you now have a built-in excuse as to why you are not catching fish. This was the excuse I relied on that day. Far more than I should have.

But who could blame me? That morning was not good to me. I managed to catch two small chub and a horned dace – not exactly the kind of fish that you envision taking your hand-tied flies. And since my buddy and I were fishing from the same canoe, I couldn't even pretend they were brook trout, as I might have had he been a little further away.

My friend, who has no shame and was dredging a worm, didn't set the world on fire either. But he did catch more horned dace than me and a couple of 4-inch brook trout. Although, if I'm going to be picky, I never actually saw the "trout," as they were "caught" and released before I ever had the chance.

I'm not suggesting foul play. My friend is an honest man of his word. Having said that, he is also an angler… So, believe what you will.

The point is the fishing was not as good as we had hoped and, luckily, we had an otter to blame.

This was driven home when we turned back towards the pool where we had first encountered the otter.

By this time, I had tied a fly under what we fly fishermen call a strike indicator and what normal people would call a "bobber." My thought was to float a subsurface fly down the current in hopes of attracting a big brook trout or something a little more likely, such as a unicorn.

As soon as we parked the canoe, I cast my bobber and fly upstream and said to my friend, "I wonder where that otter is?"

As if to answer, it popped its head up out of the water, with my bobber balanced atop it.

Then, having answered that question, it dove again and let my bobber and fly continue their futile drift.

We couldn't help but laugh. But we also knew that there was no point fishing there anymore and quickly moved on to what was hopefully a more otter-free portion of the creek.

I never did catch a brook trout that morning. But I did learn a lesson about otters and why they have an adverse impact on fishing.

As we all know, an otter is in the weasel family and therefore related to the skunk.

In more ways than one.

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# Turning a corner; on the *brink* with local art curator

**EMILY STONEHOUSE**
*County Life* Editor

David Partridge isn't out to create an art gallery.

He wants to build a community.

That's the mindset behind the curator of the Corner Gallery, who recently launched his fourth show, entitled *Brink*, on Saturday, May 23.

The show is a cumulation of artists who have displayed at the gallery before, as well as some new faces. But all pieces have a common thread, displayed and cultivated in their own way: on the brink. "I don't want to guide their hand," explained Partridge, as he dove into the process of creating a theme for a new show. "I just want art to be a little more confrontational up here."

"Brink" can refer to any number of things, said Partridge. Brink of dawn? Of course. Brink of collapse? Also applicable. The show captures colours and landscapes; the edge of a cliff, a teetering tree, a bird taking flight.

But it also showcases bold statements. A scribbled poem, a mangled edge, a Canadian flag, torn in half and bleeding across an American dollar.

As it is with any form of art, the viewer is the ultimate decision maker around the meaning. "I really try to distill with the way I think," said Partridge. "Big thoughts with few words."

But the conversations are something Partridge has already established. When he took over the Corner Gallery nearly two years ago, he implemented a regular practice: Coffee Club. One day a week, two hours, endless conversation. "This is what makes it feel like church," he said. "I love it."

As an atheist, Partridge was initially wary of the comparisons being drawn to the weekly meet-up, and that of a religious destination. "But it's all about community," he said. "I think it's the most important thing I've done."

It's a place where people feel safe, where all are welcome, and where conversations and thoughts flow freely through the curling corners of the gallery.

The gallery is a destination unto itself; shaped like an old home as opposed to an art space. The rooms are warm and inviting, with pieces showcased in every crevice and crease; a teaser for what they may look like in your own home.

During the opening of *Brink*, Partridge sold 14 pieces. The most in Corner Gallery history for a debut day. "The energy was so high," he said, "and the conversations were all about art. The compliment that meant the most to me was when artists were coming in, and saying it looks amazing."

But at the end of the day, to Partridge, it's not about the business. "We have to decide if we want to be business first or community first," he said, noting the world he's created through Coffee Club, through networking, through listening and learning and asking questions. "The reason I think this is working is because of our community."

*Brink* will be on display at the Corner Gallery, 123 Maple Avenue, for the duration of the summer months.

Curator David Partridge is eager to welcome community members to the Corner Gallery to see the work collected for current show, *Brink*. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

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## Community Events

**Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com**

**Classic Vehicle Cruise Night**
When: June 10, 5:30 p.m. to Dusk
Where: Edgewater Grill, Kinmount
Weather Permitting. These events are open to owners of Classic Automobiles and the people who love them.

**Haliubrton Highlands Time Travellers Classic Vehicle Cruise Night**
When: June 11, 5:30pm to Dusk
Where: A&W Parking Lot, Haliburton
Weather Permitting. These events are open to owners of Classic Automobiles and the people who love them.

**My Pop Choir Presents an Evening of Beloved Pop Music**
Date: Friday, June 12
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion
The music will have you smiling (and maybe singing along). Featuring guest performances by Earworms, Laurel McCauley & Kate Hall, and the Highlands Summer Festival Players. Tickets: $25 / $18 for Youth (under 18). email jocelynregina@gmail.com for tickets

**Celebration of Becoming Affirming**
When: Sunday, June 14, 9:30 a.m.
Where: Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle Street, Minden
Join us as we celebrate becoming an Affirming congregation of the United Church of Canada. Highland Hills is an inclusive and supportive community of faith where all are welcome regardless of sexual orientation, gender identities, colour, age, differing abilities, cultural identities and economic circumstances.

**Classic Vehicle Cruise Night**
When: June 18, 5:30 p.m. to Dusk
Where: Kawartha Dairy, Minden
Weather Permitting. These events are open to owners of Classic Automobiles and the people who love them.

**Bookapalooza ~ A Festival for Book Lovers**
When: June 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Community Centre
www.haliburtonarts.on.ca

**Hystory Entertainment - Victorian Murder Mystery Dinner**
When: July 10,11 from 6 to 9 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Community Centre, 9 Grandy Rd., Coboconk
Your presence is requested at Birchwood Estate for a formal evening of fine dining and intrigue. Immerse yourself in a world of secrets, suspicion, and scandal – but beware … all is not as it appears. Earlybird tickets $75 (until May 31). Regular price $85. 705-209-3044. hystoryentertainment@gmail.com.

# Haliburton free Bike Share season open

Haliburton free Bike Share is now open for the season. New this year, the Rotary Bike Share is now part of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative.

The bikes are free for use by all residents and visitors who are 18 years old or older. The bikes can be unlocked with a smart phone and a credit card. The credit card is for security purposes only. Bike rentals are completely free if the bicycles are returned undamaged. Helmets are provided at no cost in our new yellow dock box located next to the bike racks. Users are strongly urged to use a helmet.

Usage of the bikes is limited to Dysart et al and we anticipate most riders will cycle along the Rail Trail. Users may check out a bike for up to three hours at a time.

The bikes are available during daylight hours (currently 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. but the hours of operations will be amended as the days shorten). The Bike Share is operational until the end of the Thanksgiving weekend when the bikes will be stored indoors for the winter.

Haliburton Rotary would like to thank our exclusive sponsor, Algonquin Outfitters.

*Submitted*

# Glimpses of the past

## "New Bay Hotel" Miners Bay Ont c.1920

This Real Photo post card is unique, as it shows a transitional aspect to the buildings at Miners' Bay. As well as raising questions, it provides several clues, and requires some re-thinking of the timeline of the Main Lodge building. The AZO grid on the back of the card indicates a production date of the early 1920s, but the picture itself could be a couple years older.

**RUSS WUNKER**
*Glimpses of the Past*

The Tracy family took over the Miners' Bay property in 1920, and soon thereafter named the business *Bay View Hotel*. Perhaps the title of this post card is in error, or more interestingly, perhaps this card pre-dates the Tracy purchase of the property. Research is ongoing!

The scene shows the Boat House, believed to have been constructed around 1920. Also shown is the south end of the Main Lodge, and the Galloway farm house (now MBL Staff Cabin # 5). Behind the Farm House, the barn (now the MBL Rec Hall) is visible.

Connecting the two is a low "dog trot" type building that may have housed the Lodge Kitchen. This structure does not appear in any other known photographs, and was likely only used for a couple seasons.

Shortly after, (likely by 1920), it was demolished, and the second half of the Main Lodge was added – filling the space between the original Lodge and the Farm House. There appears to be a sign in front of the buildings.

The Miners' Bay Church, constructed in 1906, is not visible in the picture, but sits just to the left of the flat area above the present day location of MBL Lakefront Cabins # 7 and 8.

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# Editor's Thoughts

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Send your letters to the editor to emily@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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## Circle back

ONE OF the most common pieces of motivational wisdom is "try something new". It's etched on signs and pinned on vision boards.

And truly, there is value in looking ahead. In exploring new territory, crossing new ground.

There are endless options for "new".

**EMILY STONEHOUSE**
*County Life Editor*

Which is why I think that sometimes, instead of looking ahead, perhaps we should look backwards.

This occurred to me when I was watching my two-year-old son eat his dinner one night. His current favourite food is spaghetti, which I am grateful for, as I am able to jam extra vegetables into the sauce without a toddler rebellion on my hands.

But after he happily ate his "noo noos" (one of his first 'words' I learned to understand and still get giddy butterflies from cuteness whenever he says it,) he took a step back in time.

He, very clearly, asked for a banana.

He used to eat bananas all the time. But then suddenly, one day, he began turning them down. Not wanting to impact his relationship with eating, we never put up a fight when he denies different foods. It's all part of toddlerhood.

But suddenly, all he wanted was a banana.

So we obliged, of course, and he beamed, his little face coated with tomato sauce.

I had made a critical parenting mistake. I moved on from something that wasn't working too quickly. Didn't want to linger. I just moved on, that moment he started denying bananas, and I never looked back. No more bananas, ever again.

But sometimes we need to circle back.

The same can be said for any number of things. I have often viewed myself as a Jack of All Trades, but a master of literally none. I often start a new hobby, pick up a new instrument, try a new genre of book.

But if it doesn't click for me right away, I am quick to move on. Like many people, doing something just outside my realm of comfort feels uneasy. The simplicity and structure provided by the status quo is an easier place to settle.

So that's why, when people encourage trying something new, I think the second part of that phrase is overlooked.

Yes, you should try something for the first time. But you should also try it for the second, the third, the fourth time. You should walk away completely, and then circle back again.

Of course, if something is not serving you, you can always walk away. You're lucky to carry that power, that strength.

But if something needs further exploration, there is no shame in diving deeper. No shame in trying again. No shame in coming home. No shame in circling back.

As we explore a world full of firsts, there can be beauty in seconds and thirds and fourths. That's where the growth happens. Where the routines are made, where the attempts turn into heartbeats and the practices whittle to perfection.

So here's to the first tries. But also all the ones that come after, the dedication to giving yourself grace, to exploring a skill, to making mistakes.

And to coming full circle. Again and again and again.

## Top 10 hints you should be wearing sunscreen

NOW THAT the good weather is finally here, it's time to break out the sunscreen. We all know this, but some of us still put it off. Sometimes it is because we don't like it. Other times, it is because we don't know when the right time to start wearing it is.

**STEVE GALEA**
Humour Columnist

With that in mind, here are the top 10 hints you should be wearing sun screen:

1. You're so red, every time a car approaches, it stops.
2. A static shock was all it took to get a wildfire raging through your arm hair.
3. Mosquitoes don't land on you because they're afraid of burning their feet.
4. No one can tell when you are blushing.
5. Meat thermometer says you are well done.
6. When applying moisturizer, you hear a slurping sound.
7. You avoid your back slapping friends.
8. A paint company has named a new shade of red after you.
9. People are thinking you are starting a Red version of the Blue Man group.
10. If you stand in front of a fire truck, no one sees you.

## Storm

Nails of Rain impaling the earth,
assailing blades of grass, bending beneath an iron
Sky, swelling with swirls of storm,
branches flailing as fists of Wind pummel their trees,
the flesh of newborn leaves feeling
their first spring storm,
as they are drenched by rivers of Rain, rivulets trickling down the windowpane,
smearing the trees Outside,
I watch through the glass, branches thrashing as
Wind lashes them, puddles pooling on the grass,
the last of the daffodils, bowing their heads, their
petals pelted by pebbles of Rain,
my fingers tracing the raindrops on the windowpane like I used to do when I was small and the world around me
loomed so tall, I was always peering upwards, listening to fingers of Rain drumming on the roof above my room,
a good excuse to remain indoors and read a book
that transported me to a world beyond the cocoon
of my room,
or just sit by the window and watch the puddles
flooding the street, knowing that the day after Rain,
robins would be pecking at the grass, searching for
worms, and my next-door neighbour and I would be doing the same,
fascinated by the slimy squiggles that slithered from the earth on to our driveways and street,
squatting down to peer at them wriggle their way
across the pavement, offering them the fleshy terrain of our palms,
wondering whether they could see, as we squealed
with glee, watching them slither between the twigs of our fingers,
or writhe in the nests of our palms, wondering what
the lifespan of a worm was, watching colonies of them wriggle along
the side of the street, whether they had families like we did, and whether they were missed when
one of them
was gobbled up by a robin or another bird, whole
afternoons spent searching for worms,
on the day after Rain,
not trapping them in jam jars like some of the boys did, bringing them to school and letting them loose
or placing one on the teacher's chair, who shrieked
as we giggled and squirmed in our seats like worms after Rain,
my fingers tracing raindrops trickling down the windowpane, smearing the trees Outside,
their branches bending and swaying as the storm swirls through them,
the tender flesh of newborn leaves, lashed by Wind and Rain, while I sit here, curled by the window,
watching and waiting for the storm to pass, for the robins to arrive and peck at the grass,
searching for worms, the way we did all those
decades ago, the window to childhood opening a crack, on rainy days,
the memory flooding my mind, as my fingers try to smudge the raindrops away, before I realize they are on the other side,
fingers of Rain drumming on the roof above another room, where I am cocooned,
waiting, like the last of the daffodils, bowing their heads, for the storm to pass.

*Sylvie Kalenda*

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Minden Fairgrounds

June 13th, 2026

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## EVENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| 8:30am | Fairgrounds open |
| 8:30am | Light Horse Show |
| 9am – 5pm | Vendors, Artisans |
| 9am – 11am | Re/Max Balloon Rides (weather permitting) |
| 10am – 2pm | Pockets Face Painting |
| 10am | Chainsaw Artist |
| 10am | Pony Pulls |
| 11am – 4pm | Zoo to You |
| 11am – 4pm | Little Stirrups |
| 3pm | Auction |
| 3:30pm | Horse Pulls (follows auction) |

Times Subject to Change

## CURLING CLUB

Open 9am-5pm
Exhibits
Displays
Demonstrations
Vendors

## MAIN STAGE

LIVE MUSIC
1pm – 5pm

Mike Pollard
Cara Smith
Too Country

## FOOD & DRINK

- Beer Tent – Hosted by Mulligans
- Elliott's Chunky Fries – Elliot's Catering
- Minden Agricultural Society Food Booth – Open All Day
  Beef on the Bun

## THINGS TO DO THROUGHOUT THE DAY

- Brick Fun Zone - Lego
- Hereford Cattle Exhibit
- Minden Agricultural Society 50/50 Draw
- Dalrymple Rabbitry
- Kawartha Dairy Ice Cream
- Smokey the Bear + Ministry of Natural Resources
- Bouncy Castle – Air Bounce Adventures
- Farmers Association
- Paint The Bus
- O.P.P., Minden Fire Department, EMS
- Haliburton Rotary Club Draw SUV Tickets
- Fur Harvester

## ADMISSION

Adults: $10

Kids ages 6-12: $5

Kids 5 & under: Free

All kids events included in admission

## ITEMS TO BRING

- Lawn Chairs
- Bug Spray
- Rain Gear
- Sunscreen/Hat
- Cash (limited vendor debit/credit)

## CAMPING

$25 per trailer – plus fair admission(s) per person

Limited Hydro – First Come, First Served

Arrival: Thursday, June 11 – 8:30am

Departure: Sunday, June 14 – 11am

# Animal Tales

## *Sharon Lawrence, Wolf Wonder Woman*

**VALERIE AND MORGAN DINGMAN**

*Special to County Life*

I had the privilege of meeting and interviewing Sharon Lawrence who together with her late husband R.D. Lawrence, a field biologist, naturalist and wildlife writer who wrote 30 books about nature and animals, established and ran Wolf Hollow Sanctuary and was instrumental in establishing the Haliburton Wolf Centre.

My husband and I had visited the Wolf Centre in Haliburton last year in Nov. and were lucky enough to see all five members of the wolf pack that currently reside there through the sanctuary's large two-way viewing windows which overlook a part of the 15 acre enclosure.

Through my friend Nell, who resides nearby in Minden, I got in touch with Sharon. I had read her husband's book *Cry Wild* many years ago and before interviewing Sharon read her memoir, titled *Wolf Hollow Sanctuary*.

These two remarkable people have spent their lives studying, advocating for, and caring for wolves (as well as other injured, orphaned or mistreated animals) who required a safe space to recoup or for permanent residency.

Although R.D. had studied and written about wolves in the wild over many years, Sharon's introduction to observing and then interacting with a wolf pack came through a visit in Jan. 1984 to Michigan, where Jim Wuepper housed five wolves in captivity. and about whom her husband needed to collect more data for a book he was writing.

Ronald's previous experience allowed Sharon to approach the pack, initially meeting through the fence around that enclosure and once accepted by the alpha pair to also interact with the wolves within the enclosure. In approaching the wolves, Ron advised Sharon to put (herself) "in neutral. You cannot show too much excitement or fear." He also told her to "watch your body language. Walking too slow is seen as stalking but walking too fast is aggressive. Do not make direct eye contact at first." Sharon stated that meeting the five wolves on Jim's property and developing a relationship with them were profound and life-changing experiences. Sharon was smitten, and in the back of her mind the possibility of having a wolf family of her own was likely born through those experiences. Those lessons learned at her husband's side would be instrumental in her work over the next 25 years.

In May of the same year, she and R.D. purchased a 100 acre wilderness property in the Halliburton Highlands. This new home was the start (unbeknownst to them at the time) of what would become that wolf family reality.

As fate would have it, later that year the couple acquired two wolf pups. Sharon and her husband travelled to the Yukon after learning from a few animal rights groups that the governments of the Yukon, Alaska, and British Columbia had started a wolf culling program, which according to Sharon included shooting wolves indiscriminately from aircraft. Ronald was writing a third book on wolves, and needed to monitor and collect information about the culling.

Above, R.D. Lawrence gets to know the original wolf pups, Tundra and Taiga.

Left, Sharon Lawrence shares her stories of animal rescues over the years. /submitted

He wanted to witness firsthand how this was affecting the wolf population there.

However, shortly upon their arrival, a conversation in a local pub over drinks with a stranger ended in the couple agreeing to become the guardians of two wolf pups. The young man had acquired them because the mother wolf had been shot in the belly and could not nurse her six pups, four of whom had already died.

Ron arranged for medical attention for the she-wolf and he and Sharon took the two remaining pups into their care. Instead of remaining in Yukon, they then drove the 3,200 kilometres home to Ontario with their newly adopted wolves. The black male was given the name Tundra and his grey sister was called Taiga.

Sharon wrote that "the pups slept well in the diaper padded cardboard box that housed them between feedings of formula, but when they were hungry, the howls were nonstop from the backseat of the station wagon." They had to stop the car because it took two of them to feed "the rambunctious fur balls."

Upon arrival home, the relentless feeding schedule of every four hours continued. The babies remained in the house until the end of May, when they began going out to play in the grass where Ron had constructed a large playpen. Despite her husband's arduous writing schedule, he then had to build a large enclosure to contain the wolves as they grew older.

The acquisition of wolves in an area where many neighbours were hostile to the idea created numerous problems over the years for Ron and Sharon, and for the wolves and other animals that soon started arriving. The Lawrences had not initially intended to run a wildlife sanctuary, but because of the need when wild animals were apprehended or found injured, the couple could not turn away animals. Requests frequently came through the local OSPCA head office in Newmarket, which had a wildlife rehabilitation program.

This meant building new enclosures for animals as diverse as squirrels, skunks, porcupines and even one cougar - Teca - who was a short term resident.

Sharon shared some sad stories of malicious human interference including two separate incidents when Teca's pen was cut open; however in the memoir there are also many happy stories with good outcomes for the precious animals in their care. Through Sharon's and Ron's focus on educating and teaching about these animals, eventually their continual advocacy yielded some positive acceptance and understanding of wildlife by previously opposed locals.

It is clear that one of Sharon's life mission goals is to help change people's attitudes. As a former teacher, she wanted to reach young people, and did so by going into schools in the area and doing presentations. Many young people came out to meet the wolf pack and Sharon recounts stories of youth that went on to work in related fields and to advocate for animals.

In 1987 Sharon and Ron and others organized the first Wolf Weekend, which was held at the base camp of the Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve. The weekend offered hiking, bird watching, canoeing, speakers, documentaries and films, and Sunday afternoon the participants came to Wolf Hollow Sanctuary to meet the wolves.

The inception of the present day centre in Haliburton occurred in 1993 when Jim Wuepper from Minnesota chose to re-home his six member wolf pack. Although there were many difficulties encountered in bringing these wolves across the border, three wolves came to live with the Lawrences, and the other three adults became the first wolves to reside at the newly constructed 15 acre enclosure in Haliburton.

This became a teaching centre and has continued to house and display its own wolf packs to the public. By the mid-1990s, the Lawrences had 11 wolves on their property. Sharon notes that over the more than twenty years that Wolf Hollow Sanctuary existed they had thousands of visitors yearly. Ron was well known for films that had been made based on his books and his TV appearances, which attracted all sorts of interested people, including dignitaries, wolf researchers, filmmakers, photographers and artists who wanted to film, draw or paint the wolves.

Unfortunately, Ron passed away in 2003 from complications related to Alzheimer's disease, which was diagnosed in 1995. Sharon continued to run the sanctuary as well as caring for her husband, also helping him finish several books in that period. When asked what Sharon wanted most to share based on her many years of experience with wildlife she stated: "What people have to understand is that anything in nature is not the enemy. All the animals … are part of the circle of life. Most people are needlessly afraid.… Wolves are very curious. It's all (in) the way a person approaches (wildlife) ..."

Wolves in particular will respond based on your state of being, sometimes with curiosity and even affection, but also if wary of you, with warning howl-barking or by choosing to hide. This amazing lady at age 85 still volunteers at the Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary in Minden. With many years of experience in feeding baby animals, she generally now oversees the kitchen where formula and other types of food are prepared as well as defrosting bottles, nipples, syringes, and dishes which are constantly washed. Sharon's life is undoubtedly filled with the satisfaction of loving and caring for wildlife. The couples' devotion to animals, as exemplified by Sharon's legacy of education and R.D. 's prolific written works will continue to educate and inspire all of us.

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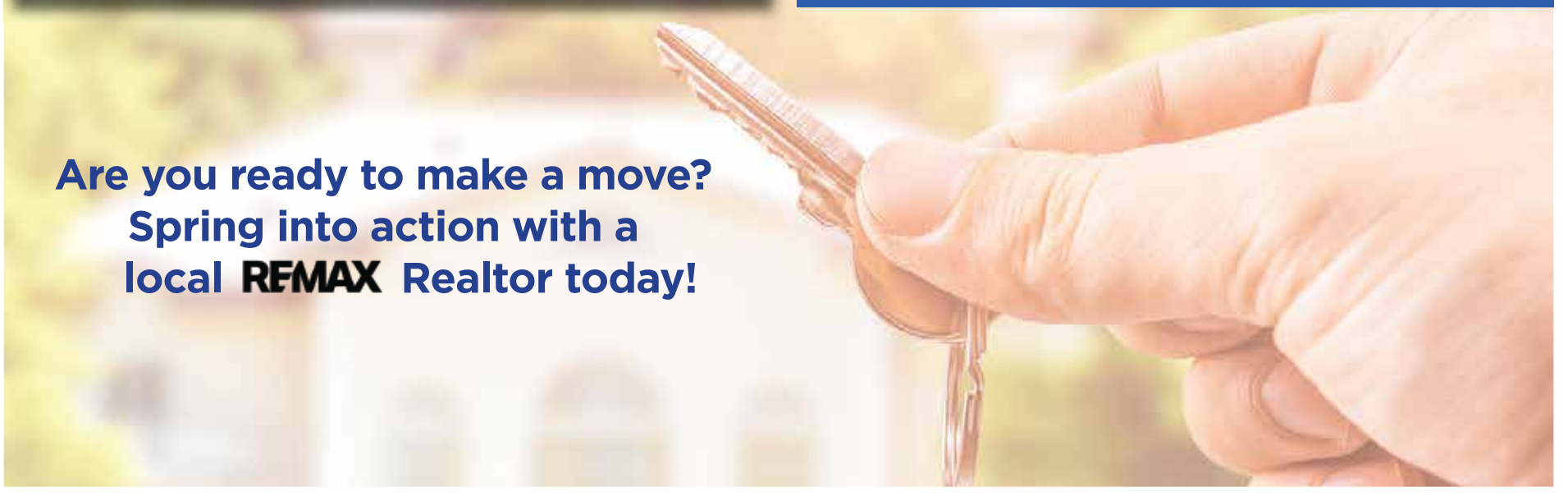

# Nature in your backyard

*County Life* welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Male Fisher by Tammy Nash

Sunrise overlooking Haliburton Lake by Randy Barber

Amelanchier tree by Jill Moulton

Moose by Tammy Nash

## Legion Events

### Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid Euchre 1 p.m., Card night 7 p.m.
Wednesday: Mixed Darts, 7:30 p.m.
Friday: Bingo- Doors open at 5 p.m., play at 6:45 p.m.
Saturday: Clubroom opens at 3 p.m. Meat draw 5 p.m.
2nd Sunday of the month. Ladies Auxiliary - 11 a.m.
3rd Thursday of the month 7 p.m. executive meeting.7:30 p.m. general meeting (members only)
Last Sunday of the month - All you can eat breakfast
Hall rentals available at reasonable prices.
Email: 441RCL@gmail.com Call 705-488-3462 or 705-928-7105. We welcome everyone to our events and we look forward to seeing you!

### Branch 129 Haliburton

**Mondays:** Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
**Tuesdays:** League darts 7 p.m.
**Wednesdays**: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo 7 p.m. FirstWed of each month with jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
**Thursdays**: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
**Fridays:** Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
*Planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome!* Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

### Branch 636 Minden

**Lunch - Monday to Friday**
**Monday:** Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
**Tuesday:** Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
**Thursday:** Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
**Every other Friday:** Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
**Friday** Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
**Saturday** All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
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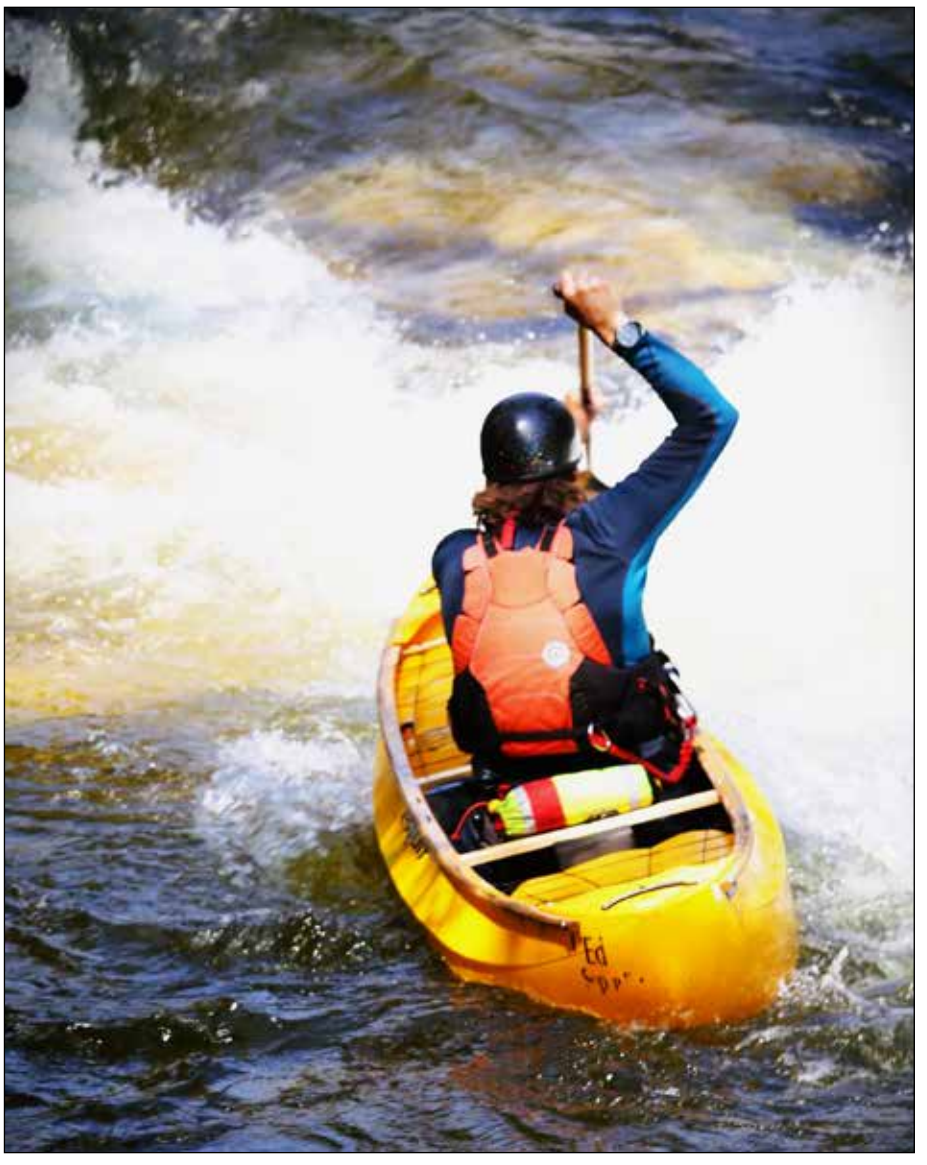
Schedules are subject to change without notice.
Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636

### Branch 624 Wilberforce

Call the Legion for more info 705-448-2221

ChipmunkEatingSunflowerSeeds by Rob Barnes

Resting loon by Jill Moulton



Rapids by Linda Tatler

# Nature in your backyard

*County Life* welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Pileated Woodpecker by Tammy Nash

Swallowtail by Jill Moulton

Hummingbird by Jill Moulton

Peekaboo Fisher by Tammy Nash

Chipmunk having a snack by Jill Moulton

Chippy by Vivien Mausz

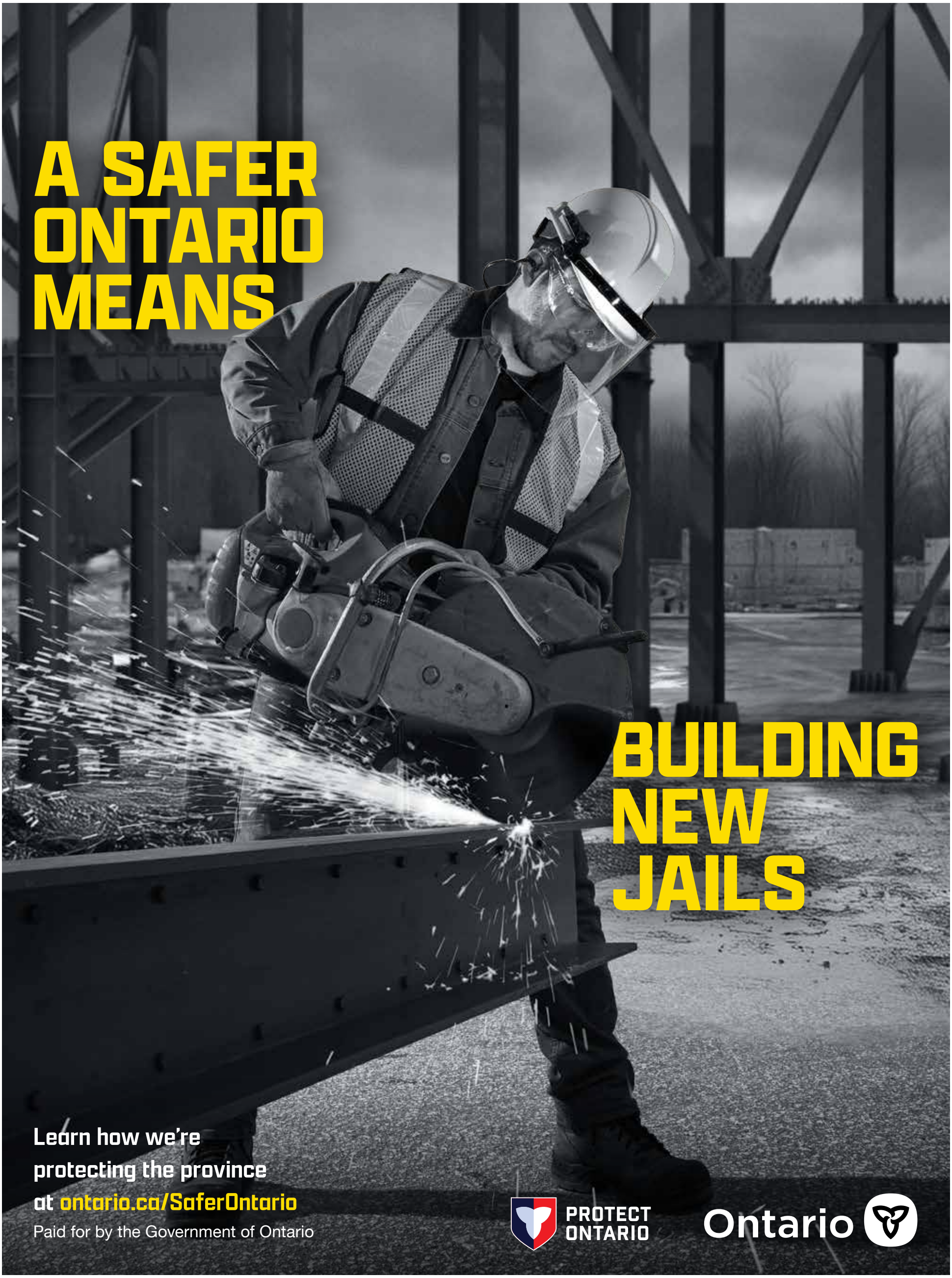
Visiting moose by Tammy Nash

Fox by Randy Barber

Goslings by Jill Moulton

Stickbug by Rob Barnes

White trillium by Tammy Nash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Massive Street and Moving Sale. **Friday, June 12 and Saturday the 13. 10:00a.m. – 8:00p.m.** Green Gables Road off 35, North of Norland. You'll find electronics, tools, appliances, crafts, pickles, life jackets, canning supplies, bedding, towels, books, kitchen items, outdoor chairs, indoor storage units, screened in eating tent, seniors equipment, vintage, school supplies, snow blower, outdoor gardening, etc. Let's make a Deal!!

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## COMING EVENT

Opening 21st Century Follies Art Space Gallery. 1513 Eagle Lake Rd. West Guilford. May 30th-June 28th. Wednesday-Sunday, 11-4. Reception Saturday June 6th, 1-3. Info at www.brushandpen.ca

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## ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Jess Wallace and Mike Bradley are the HHSS Athletes of the Year. The award was announced at the annual athletic banquet held Tuesday evening at the Legion Hall in Haliburton. Wallace was honoured for her outstanding achievements as the most valuable player in senior field hockey, badmintoin, and volley ball. As well she received an award of excellence for highest athletic participation and a major athletic award. Bradley was honoured for his participation in senior football where he was awarded two most valuable player honours and a similar acolade in track and field.

## Lower taxes entice Galway ratepayers to look north

by Jerry Grozelle

Galway-Cavendish Township residents are ready to join Haliburton County if a group of 120 people who turned out for an emergency meeting Sunday at the Galway Hall is representative of fellow ratepayers.

More than 90 per cent of those present at the meeting were Galway residents (permanent and seasonal) and by the time the meeting was over they voted emphatically to pursue amalgamation with Haliburton County.

The emergency meeting was called in response to a Peterborough County proposal which was submitted to the provincial Ministry of Municipal Affairs. The proposal asks the province to force the Municipality of Galway-Cavendish to amalgamate with Harvey Township, a township to the east.

Peter Charters, president of the White Lake Ratepayers' Association and a strong proponent of a Galway-Cavendish (G-C) move to Haliburton County, predicts that a merger with

*(more on page 3)*

## O'Reilly wins in a close contest

by Andrew Milne

Liberal incumbent John O'Reilly survived something of a squeaker last week.

The final unofficial vote came down to 18,093 votes for O'Reilly, versus 16,974 for Reform newcomer Pat Dunn, a difference of only 1,119 votes.

Trailing the leaders were PC candidate Lorne Chester, with 14,166, the NDP's Rick Denyer, with 3,524, and Canadian Action Party contender Charles Olito, with 501 votes.

O'Reilly's team, tallying the results in Lindsay as the votes came in, had a late night, and a tense first hour as early results see-sawed between the two leading candidates.

The first results, Minden's poll one, reported just before 10 p.m., putting O'Reilly slightly ahead of Dunn, at 103 votes to 83. By 10:15, however, with a few thousand votes counted, Dunn was leading by a slim margin of 50.

When the contest seemed finally resolved, shortly after midnight, and his challengers were en route to congratulate him, O'Reilly's comments roughly mirrored the national party's stance — he spoke of staying the course: deficit reduction as a priority, with some hope held out that the government might run a slightly more traditionally Liberal administration over the coming term.

"My main concerns are continued economic growth... the move towards fiscal responsibility, and making sure that

*(more on page 3)*

Successful Liberal incumbent, John O'Reilly, left, accepted the best wishes of PC candidate Lorne Chester after the votes were tallied last Monday evening.

## Minden ready to welcome N. America's top choppers

Once again Minden is preparing to welcome lumber jacks and jills from across North America.

The occasion is the fifth annual Ontario Timbersport Championship. The event provides an opportunity to see some of the best in North America participate in a variety of competitions. Throughout the day spectators will be able to watch 16 different events including traditional competitions like axe throwing and pole climbing and more modern activities like modified chainsaw contests which Timberfest chairman Ted Anthon describes as, "a souped-up chain saw which melts through logs in less than two seconds."

The day begins at 9 a.m. with the axe throwing competition. Ceremonies to mark this year's event will take place at noon when Victoria/Haliburton MPP Chris Hodgson will join Reeve Jeanne Anthon to officially welcome the spectators and competitors.

According to Ted Anthon, close to 50 competitors are expected this year, including last year's over-all champion Dave Jewett. "Dave holds several world records and we're looking forward to watching him in action again this year," Anthon said.

"In response to requests from the competitors we have added a new event this year," Anthon said. "We have included a women's Swede saw event to the line-up."

Competitors are expected from across Canada and the United States as well as one coming from New Zealand.

"This is a community event in which we welcome competitors from across the country to our village," Anthon added. "We couldn't do it without the support of our sponsors and the citizens of the surrounding area. In the past we have always received rave reviews from our competitors for the welcome they received here," he concluded.

Anyone interested in helping the organizers during the day is invited to attend a volunteers' meeting this Wednesday evening, 7:30 p.m. in the Anson, Hindon and Minden council chambers.

Drivers should note that Minden's Main Street, from the bank corner to the Novel Ideas Book Store corner, will be closed to traffic during the Saturday competitions.

A schedule and other details of the Minden Timbersport Festival can be found in a separate supplement included with this edition of *The Times*.

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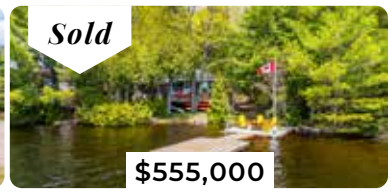
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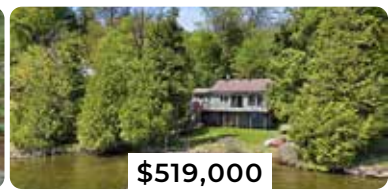
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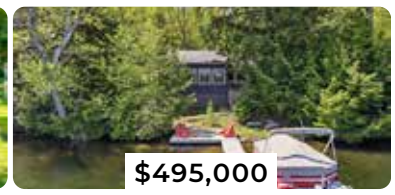
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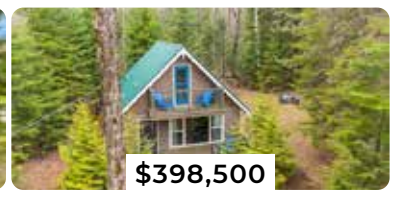
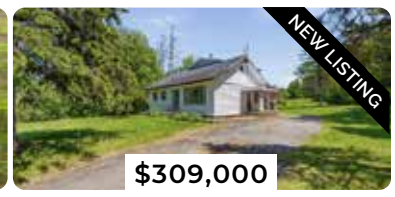

$398,500
BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13122288

### LOOP ROAD

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$309,000
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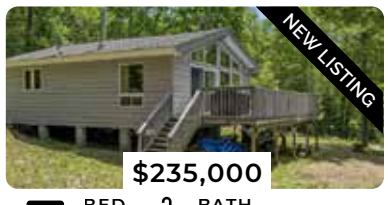
### TATTERSALL ROAD

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Our experience with Baumgartner Realty spans two chapters of our life, and they delivered beautifully both times. When circumstances required us to sell our cottage and relocate for family, Linda guided us through what could have been a stressful process with care and professionalism. She took the time to truly understand our situation and made the experience far smoother than we expected. Two years later, when we were ready to come back, we didn't hesitate to return to Baumgartner.

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